

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072510
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO FLASH
INFO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072510

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SIAD BARRE

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 594; B) STATE 63447; C) STATE 65221

1. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, AS STRESSED REF C, THAT SOME INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON THE HORN, EITHER THROUGH THE OAU OR THE UN, OR BOTH, IS NECESSARY TO BRING GREATER STABILITY TO THE REGION. THIS IS VERY MUCH IN SIAD BARRE'S INTEREST.

2. ELEMENTS OF OAU AND/OR UN ACTION COULD BE ALONG LINES OF PARA 5 REF C, WITH POINT (A) ADJUSTED TO REFLECT FACT THAT DE FACTO CEASE FIRE IS NOW IN EFFECT ALONG THE BORDER.

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PAGE 02 STATE 072510

3. AS FAR AS OAU ACTION IS CONCERNED, WE SHARE TO SOME EXTENT SIAD BARRE'S SKEPTICISM THAT ANYTHING USEFUL WILL EMERGE. CERTAINLY OAU'S TRACK RECORD TO DATE ON HORN IS NOT ENCOURAGING AND WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT OAU CAN MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE MEDIATION OR FIELD A BORDER OBSERVATION UNIT. HOWEVER, HAVING ACCEPTED INVITATION TO APRIL 10 MEETING,

WE BELIEVE THAT SIAD SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DRAW WHATEVER BENEFITS HE CAN FROM OAU INVOLVEMENT. MOREOVER, WHILE OAU WAS NOT SYMPATHETIC TO SOMALIA POSITION AS LONG AS SOMALI TROOPS WERE IN OCCUPATION OF LARGE PART OF OGADEN, WE BELIEVE THAT SOMALIA'S WITHDRAWAL TO ORIGINAL FRONTIERS

WILL CREATE MORE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE WITHIN OAU AND ENABLE THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH SHARE SIAD'S CONCERN OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE THAT ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN BY SOMALIS DURING PERIOD LEADING UP TO APRIL 10 MEETING AIMED AT WINNING SUPPORT WITHIN OAU WOULD BE USEFUL.

4. AS FAR AS UN ACTION IS CONCERNED, WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO HOLD OFF UNTIL AFTER APRIL 10 MEETING. ON BASIS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GARBA (REF B) DURING HIS RECENT STAY IN NEW YORK, WE TAKE AT FACE VALUE HIS STATEMENT THAT NIGERIANS WILL ABANDON THEIR PREVIOUS OPPOSITION TO UNSC ROLE IF APRIL 10 MEETING ENDS WITHOUT RESULT AND SITUATION IN HORN CLEARLY REQUIRES SOME INTERNATIONAL ACTION.

VANCE

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PAGE 03 STATE 072510

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